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REPORT

OF THE
Medical Officer of Health,
for the Year 1940,

BY
N. E. CHADWICK, M.A., M.D., D.P.H.



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BY

N. E. CHADWICK, M.A., M.D., D.P.H.

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH—

N. E. CHADWICK, M.D., also M.O.H. of Hove.

SURVEYOR AND SANITARY INSPECTOR—

W. E. RUDGLEY, A.M.Inst.M. & Cy.E., C.R.S.I.

ASSISTANT SURVEYOR AND SANITARY INSPECTOR—

PHYSICIANS TO THE CHILD WELFARE CENTRES—

Miss V. E. CLAXTON, M.B., B.S., London.

Miss D. A. CAREW HUNT, M.D., London.

HEALTH VISITOR AND SCHOOL NURSE—

Nurse TURNER, S.R.N., S.C.M., H.V's Certificate

Urban District of Portslade-by-Sea

REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER
OF HEALTH FOR THE YEAR 1940.

*To the Chairman and Members of the
Urban District Council.*

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report for the year 1940. The necessity of concentrating on the maximum war effort the demands of Civil Defence in all its phases and changes in the staff inevitably meant some reduction in the routine work of the Sanitary Department, but every effort was made to maintain any vital service affecting the community.

Despite war-time conditions the general health of the town remained as high as in previous years and the incidence of Infectious Disease continued on the low level of 1939. Measles and Whooping Cough were added to the list of notifiable diseases at the end of the year and from the table set out on Page 13 it will be seen that 113 cases of the former disease and 16 of the latter became known in this way. They were generally of a mild type and only two required admission to Hospital.

By January, 1940, most of the evacuated mothers with children under school age had returned to London and the remaining school children had settled down happily in their new surroundings when the order to re-evacuate them to safer areas came in July. It is generally admitted that they had benefited greatly by their stay and their departure was regretted by children, staff and foster-mothers alike.

Changes in the organisation of and improvements to the accommodation for the Casualty Section of Civil Defence did much to improve their efficiency and although most of their time was spent in standing by, their enthusiasm and loyalty, particularly during the winter months, in no way abated.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient Servant,

N. E. CHADWICK,

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS, 1940.

Area (acres) 1,961

Population—Census, 1931—9,527

Resident Population for 1940—Estimated, 12,770

Inhabited houses (1921)—1,527 : Estimated 1940, 3,472

Families or separate occupiers—1940—Estimated 3,717

Rateable value—£110,602

Sum represented by a penny rate—£432

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS.

	BIRTHS	Total	Male	Female
Live Births	{ Legitimate	162	89	73
	{ Illegitimate	5	5	—

Birth-rate 13.08

Stillbirths :—5. Rate per 1,000 births—26.94

DEATHS	169	86	83
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Corrected Death-rate 15.876. Standard Death-rate 13.23

Number of women dying in or in consequence of Child-birth :—

From Sepsis : none. From other causes : none.

Deaths of infants under 1 year of age—11

Rate per 1,000 births : Total 65.7.

DEATHS from

Measles (all ages)	...	...	none
Whooping Cough (all ages)	...	...	none
Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	...	...	2

POPULATION.

In 1939 the Registrar-General supplied two estimates for the purpose of calculating Mortality Rates in order to take into account the vast changes in the distribution of the population consequent upon the Evacuation Scheme at the outbreak of War. In 1940 the position became more stabilised and only one estimate has been supplied. This represents in the case of Portslade an increase of 200.

CAUSES OF DEATH.

The total number of deaths has risen from 127 to 169 and the Death Rate from 9.97 to 15.876 but this increase is probably due in part to the altered arrangements for the

allocation of deaths of temporary residents or of permanent residents dying elsewhere than in their poorer domicile. In peace time these deaths were debited every quarter to their own residential areas, but under war conditions this is no longer possible except in the case of deaths occurring in institutions and such deaths are assigned to their place of occurrence. A similar system has been instituted in respect of Infant Deaths except that in order to balance the increased number of Infant Deaths allocated to one area by this alteration a special Birth figure has been introduced for the purpose of calculating the Infant Mortality Rate. In small areas such as Portslade it may be that this alteration in the methods of calculating the vital statistics adversely affects the results and it is noticeable that the Infant Mortality Rate has risen from 0 to 65·7 per 1000 births but on the other hand rates of 40 to 50 were not uncommon in previous years and it only needs the addition of a few deaths to send up the Mortality Rates to a very high level.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES.

WATER SUPPLY.

The whole of the district is supplied with water by the Brighton Corporation. The water is hard but of excellent quality, well ærated and very pure. The supply is constant.

DRAINAGE.

The whole of the public roads in the district are sewered by gravitation on the water carriage system.

All houses in the District are connected to the public sewers with the following exceptions :—

There are 12 houses served by 7 cesspools, of these cesspools 2 have no sewerage facilities in the neighbourhood and 2 do not, as regards the statutory distance, come within the requirements of the Act. The remaining 3 cesspools are periodically tested and found to be in good condition.

In addition there are 9 houses, situate in outlying parts of the District, provided with earth closets.

All sewerage is discharged into intercepting sewers which are under the control of the Portslade and Southwick Outfall Sewerage Board. Disposal is by means of Sea Outfall owned by the Board.

HOUSE REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL.

This work is carried out by direct labour by means of two "Dennis" 10 cubic yard petrol driven collecting vehicles and disposal by means of "Controlled Tipping" in accordance with the requirements of the Ministry of Health. This system of Collection and Disposal still continues to be thoroughly satisfactory and economical.

Owing to the position of the site of the tip being in the centre of the town (although not in a closely built up area) particular care has been taken to ensure that no reason for complaint can arise as a result of the method of disposal employed.

No complaints have been received during the year as to nuisance arising from this method of disposal.

The work of collection has been efficiently carried out, the refuse being collected once weekly from the backs of the houses.

SANITARY INSPECTION—The Sanitary Inspector has prepared the following Annual Statement of his visits and notices :—

Houses inspected for housing defects	...	116
Houses inspected under Public Health Acts		234
Houses inspected after complaints	...	103
Premises disinfected	...	20
Informal notices issued (Housing & P.H. Acts)		120
Statutory notices issued	" " "	17
Houses found dirty	... ..	19
" with insufficient bins	... ..	69
Drains defective	... ..	33
Closets	"	33
Sinks	"	37
Roofs and Gutters defective	... ..	113
Paving of Yards defective	... ..	45
Damp & Defective Walls, Ceilings, Floors, etc.		24
Cesspools defective	... ..	—
Offensive Accumulations	... ..	2

RATS AND MICE—The Sanitary Inspector acts as Officer under this Act, tins of poison with handbills were given free to applicants during the year.

Eradication of bed bugs.

- (1) During the year 12 Council Houses were found to be infested to a varying degree and three Non-Council Houses. The whole of these houses were disinfected as follows :—

(2) (a) Council Houses by means of stripping walls supplying and spraying with special liquids for the purpose.

(b) Private Houses, in certain rooms stripping of walls and re-distempering same, together with application of insecticide powder, disinfectant and spraying.

In the case of (a) the work has been carried out by the Council.

In the case of (b) the work has been carried out by the landlord, the Council supplying free on application, supplies of insecticide powder, disinfectants and spraying liquids.

(3) The methods employed for ensuring that the belongings of tenants are free from vermin before removal to Council Houses, are that, all premises and furniture of persons about to move into Council Houses are inspected prior to removal

(4) The work of disinfection is carried out :—

(a) In Council Houses by the Council.

(b) In Private Houses by the tenant or the landlord.

HOUSING STATISTICS, 1939.

New houses and flats erected during the year :

Total	...	...	...	...	16
With State Assistance by Local Authority	...				0
„ „ „ by other persons	...				0

INSPECTION OF DWELLING HOUSES.

1. *Inspection of dwelling-houses during the year :*

(1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) ... 116

(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose 299

(2) (a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head 1 above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932 ... 41

(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose 66

(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation ... 1

(4)	Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	116
2.	<i>Remedy of defects during the year without service of formal notices :</i>	
	Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers ...	89
3.	<i>Action under Statutory Powers during the year :</i>	
	<i>A-Proceedings under section 9, 10 and 17 of the Housing Act, 1936</i>	
(1)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	34
(2)	Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :	
(a)	By Owners	6
(b)	By Local Authority in default of owners	0
	<i>B-Proceedings under Public Health Acts</i>	
(1)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which informal notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	94
(2)	Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal Notices :	
(a)	By Owners	6
(b)	By Local Authority in default of owners	0
	<i>C-Proceedings under sections 11, and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936</i>	
(1)	Number of representations, etc., made in respect of dwelling-houses unfit for habitation	1
(2)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which demolition orders were made	0
(3)	Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of demolition orders	0

(4)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which undertakings were accepted from owners, Section 19 (2) :—	
(a)	To render the house fit for human habitation	1
(b)	As to usage other than for human habitation	0

D-Proceedings under section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936

(1)	Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect which Closing Orders were made	0
(2)	Number of separate tenements or underground rooms the Closing Orders in respect of which were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit	0

4. HOUSING ACT, 1936—Part IV—OVERCROWDING

(a) (i)	Number of dwellings overcrowded at end of the year	7
(ii)	Number of families therein	7
(iii)	Number of persons	60
(b)	Number of new cases reported during the year	—
(c) (i)	Number of cases relieved	2
(ii)	Number of persons concerned	11

Total number of houses in the area is estimated to be 3472. Many of these houses in the older parts of the town are not up to modern standards, but with continued inspection remain quite serviceable.

There is no evidence of any widespread overcrowding although a considerable number of families continue to live under inconvenient and unsuitable surroundings.

FITNESS OF HOUSES—There has been no difficulty in dealing with the defects found in houses ; water supply and drainage are sufficient. All houses with the exception of 9 have water-closets.

BYE-LAWS—Are sufficient: No difficulty has arisen in their enforcement. No case of illness due to housing faults has come to my notice.

FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS & WORKPLACES, 1930

1—INSPECTION OF FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS & WORKPLACES.

Including Inspections made by Sanitary Inspector.

Premises (1)	Number of		
	Inspections (2)	Written Notices (3)	Prosecutions (4)
FACTORIES (Including Factory Laundries).	12	0	None
WORKSHOPS (Including Workshop Laundries)	23	0	None
WORKPLACES (Other than Outworkers' premises)	0	0	None
TOTAL	35	0	None

2—DEFECTS FOUND IN FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES.

Particulars. (1)	Number of Defects.			Number of Prose- cutions (5)
	Found (2)	Remedied (3)	Referred to H.M. Inspector (4)	
<i>Nuisances under the Factories Acts :— *</i>				
Want of Cleanliness				
Want of Ventilation				
Overcrowding				
Want of drainage of floors				
Other Nuisances				
Sanitary Accommodation	{ insufficient			
	{ unsuitable or defective			
	{ not separate for sexes			
<i>Offences under the Factory and Workshops Acts :</i>				
Illegal occupation of underground bakehouses (101)				
Other offences				
(Excluding offences relating to outwork and offences under the Sections mentioned in the Schedule to the Ministry of Health (Factories and Workshops Transfer of Powers) Order, 1921)				
Total	0	0	0	0

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

MILK SUPPLY—There are only 2 farms in the district from which milk is supplied ; these are kept in a satisfactory condition

There are 4 dairies in the district, 5 Cowkeepers, 1 vendor of skim milk only, 20 shops where milk is sold in bottles only ; and 19 Retailers and Dairymen who deliver milk in this district, of which 16 have premises in other districts.

MEAT.—There are two Slaughter-houses in the district. These were closed immediately after the outbreak of War.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

NOTIFIED CASES AND DEATHS DURING 1940.

DISEASE	Total	Under 1 yr.	1—2	2—3	3—4	4—5	5—10	10—15	15—20	20—35	35—45	45—65	Over 65	Re- moved Hospitl	Deaths
Scarlet Fever ...	24				4		12	4	2	1	1			19	
Erysipelas ...	7									3	1	2	1		
Pneumonia ...	22		2	1		1	2	1		2	3	6	4		
Diphtheria ...	4			3						1				2	
Puerperal Pyrexia	—														
Ophthalmia neon- tatorum ...	2	1	1												
Measles ...	113	1	11	13	11	14	45	7	6	5				2	
Whooping Cough	16		2	4	3	1	4			1	1				
Paratyphoid B.	1					1									
	189	2	16	21	18	17	63	12	8	6	6	8	5	23	

TUBERCULOSIS.

New Cases and Mortality during 1940.

Age Periods		NEW CASES				DEATHS			
		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
		M.	F.	M.	F.	M	F.	M	F.
0	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
10	...	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
20	...	—	2	—	—	—	1	—	—
25	...	2	2	—	—	—	1	—	—
35	...	2	3	—	—	—	—	—	—
45	...	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
55	...	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
65	...	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals		6	11	—	—	—	2	—	—

